

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD MEMBERS of NHNENC:

CALIFORNIA

**NORTH HOLLYWOOD
NORTH EAST
NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL**

Randal Luse – Pres.
Jeff Brooks–Treas.
Donald Corton
Loretta Luse
Jamie McDonald-
Adlof
Sarah Ramsawack

Ernie Moscoso – V-
Pres.
J. Eric Freedner–Sec.
Florence Dorick
David Hernandez
Philip Manson
Katie Pelych



P. O. Box 16478
North Hollywood,
CA 91615-6478
Cell: (818) 454-0015
Email:
NoHoNorthEastNC@gmail.com

L.A. DONE TELEPHONE:
(818) 756-9628

**MINUTES of the MONTHLY MEETING of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

July 10, 2008

Park Plaza Apts. Recreation room, 6755 Rhodes Avenue, North Hollywood, CA

CALL TO ORDER: President Randal Luse called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Freedner took roll; present were: Donald Corton, Florence Dorick, J. Eric Freedner, Randal Luse, Phil Manson, Ernie Moscoso, and Sarah Ramsawack, constituting a quorum. (Katie Pelych arrived later in the evening.)

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Mr. Manson moved to accept the June minutes. Mr. Corton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS BY GOV'T REPRESENTATIVES: Officer Gabriel Ahedo reported many burglaries and grand theft auto in the area, but the stats improved in June. There was another shooting in Valley Plaza Park and a suspect was found in Arleta and arrested. Another suspect was arrested for a robbery at the swap meet on Lankershim Boulevard. He urged our support of the National Night Out on August 5. In response to a question by stakeholder Sheldon Walter, Officer Ahedo said the "shooting" on the 170 freeway last night was only fireworks.

Ruben Zaragoza of Councilman Cardenas' office invites everyone to the 1st Annual Family Summer Festival at Van Nuys City Hall, June 28 thru Sept and also urged our support of National Night Out. Mr. Freedner invited Councilman Cardenas to our next meeting to give the oath of office to the newly-elected Board members. Mr. Luse took photos of the potholes at Laurel Canyon and Saticoy and showed them to Ruben and he reports that the holes have been filled as of today.

Eric Menjivar of Councilperson Greuel's office announced another National Night Out festivity at North Hollywood Park at Magnolia. Also there will be held a Neighborhood Empowerment Forum, 7/20, 9 AM, at Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City. Responding

to a question by stakeholder Al Henriquez, he said that another Health & Safety Fair would be held on Oct. 11 at Valley Plaza Park, with a free Child Car Seat Inspection. Mr. Freedner also invited Councilperson Gruel to our next meeting, also to administer the oath to the new Board members.

Grace Liu apologized to the newly-elected Board members but wanted to do everything properly and therefore had urged they not be seated until certification is completed. On 8/16, Board training will be held for new and seasoned Board members, 8 AM- 12:30 at the Braude Center in Van Nuys. She also announced the Community Beautification Grant of up to \$10,000; workshops will be scheduled and the due-date is Oct. 22.

Yolanda Anguiano of the 39th District Office said she spoke with Ms. Ramsawack about the litter and bad conditions on the 170 between Sherman Way and Roscoe Blvd., and cleanup is scheduled by 7/32. Stakeholder Sheila Davis noted that the fence along the 170 has been down "for ages."

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Sheldon Walter spoke at the MTA meeting 2 weeks ago. He wants to see the Red Line extended from North Hollywood to Warner Center via an overhead line; also for service to Bob Hope Airport.

Gary Hendrickson said the old drive-in at Sepulveda is to be converted to condos and businesses, but little notice was given to the community about it. The Valley Plaza shopping center project is "in hiatus," due to lack of funding. Too many malls have been built around the Valley. Also there is an increased problem with bicyclists using the sidewalks and the City is lax in enforcement. This is dangerous to both pedestrians and motorists, who are held responsible if a collision occurs. The City should be held accountable for the consequences of not enforcing bicycle laws.

Al Henriquez commended the Board for its efforts and hopes more people will attend meetings.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: Ms. Ramsawack presented a detailed budget and plan for the National Night Out event to be held 8/5 in Slavin Park. The event runs from 6 to 8 PM. Promotional items will be labeled Complements of NHNENC, LAPD, Councilman Cardenas' office and the Dept. of Recreation & Parks. Three large banners will be hung from fences. She then handed out a motion, saying that she checked with attorney Tom Griego of the legal department of DONE who said that as a volunteer for the Neighborhood Watch and a NC member, she could make such a motion for funding. She thereupon moved:

"As a volunteer for the Strathren Neighborhood Watch, I am eligible to make the following motion to the North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council. I move

that the Council accept the information provided concerning the National Night Out,

A Neighborhood Watch Event, for community outreach and presence on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, and fund this event to a maximum ceiling of \$10,000."

Mrs. Dorick seconded. Mr. Moscoso said he would accept the motion and invited public comment first, then Board comment. Mr. Hendrickson liked the idea but said bottled water and balloons were so temporary. Tablets of paper and pens would stay with people. Also tell people, "You will need us" or something similar to stay in their mind. And put something in there in Spanish. Sheila Davis termed it "a terrific proposal" and liked the idea of huge savings. Stakeholder Judy Brice thought it a good idea, and neighbors can meet one another. Mr. Henriquez asked if there was enough time to put it all together, to which Ms. Ramsawack replied that she just needs the money.

Mr. Manson thought it a great idea and a lot of potential publicity but wanted to make sure it was legal for Ms. Ramsawack to present the motion herself. She again replied that it was, per the city attorney. Responding to a question by Mr. Walter, she said about 100 cars could park on the baseball field and there was also parking on the city streets. Mr. Manson said the motion should not be worded "as a volunteer of the Neighborhood Watch" but as a Board member.

Mr. Freedner noted that the elections flyer cost us \$3,000 and the City probably spent that much or more on its own flyers, a total of \$6,000 which brought in apparently 39 voters. Here, too, a lot of money is requested and the amount wasn't even put on the agenda. Potentially, stakeholders could file a grievance. The time frame of the event, 2 hours, is just too short for the money budgeted and working people might not even be able to get there on time. For these reasons he felt he could not vote for the motion.

Ms. Ramsawack replied that the election flyers came in under budget and raised the issue of how many stakeholders actually lived in our NC area. After further discussion, Mr. Moscoso reminded the Board that our responsibility was to advertise and that can't relate to this motion. This item has been on the table for the past 3 months and "we knew in our hearts we'd spend money" on it.

Mr. Henriquez asked if the Board hadn't already approved the expenditure and Mr. Moscoso replied that we had approved of the event but there might be a Brown Act problem as to the dollar amount. Ms. Davis criticized publicity by the NC and asked how anyone would know it was an issue anyway. Mr. Hendrickson asked if there wasn't a provision for "emergency spending" and doubted anyone would file a grievance and even if so, there was no penalty for such a violation.

Mr. Luse noted that Ms. Ramsawack "has again done a bang-up job" of planning the event. The Latin Jazz Festival didn't help our NC as to people coming to meetings. It was a lot of fun but it's time to start something new and local. He did agree that it seems to be a lot of food and giveaways for a mere 2-hour period. But if we advertise free food, people will show up! Ms. Ramsawack agreed that it was a "short window" but expects 500 to show up and that she wanted to keep it from being a "commercial event." To which Mr. Luse responded that it seems worth a try, at least as a one-time test.

Mr. Corton thought it a good idea and that we should approve it. Ms. Dorick said she put a lot of work into this and “we will get our dollars back and have a bit of fun.”

Mr. Moscoso asked if Ms. Ramsawack would accept an amended motion: that the Chair co-authors the motion, to avoid any hint of impropriety as to her status in both groups. Ms. Ramsawack and Ms. Dorick accepted this and the Board voted: 6 – Yes 1 – No. PASSES.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT: Ms. Ramsawack showed the brochures and holders to the Board. We discussed about \$500 funding but she found holders for less than \$100 and flyers actually cost less than \$55 to print up. Mr. Manson asked: “Where do you buy gasoline?” “Same highway robbery place as you,” replied Ms. Ramsawack, to which general laughter resulted. Mr. Luse asked at how many locations the brochures will be available, and Ms. Ramsawack replied, 28.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Mr. Freedner read Jeff Brooks’ email regarding the remaining balance.

HIGH GASOLINE PRICES: Mr. Moscoso asked why this was on the agenda, and Mr. Freedner replied that last month he and Mr. Brooks suggested including it. Mr. Moscoso thought there was little we could do. Mr. Freedner agreed but suggested we could write a letter of concern to the City Council, since lower-class families such as those within our NC area are hardest hit by the high prices. By consensus, the Board agreed there was little we could do on an official basis.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

(Ms. Pelych arrives.)

Mr. Manson asked if we actually approved spending for the flyers and brochure holders. After further discussion, it was determined that the Board had not. After brief discussion, the Board by consensus agreed to place this expenditure on next month’s agenda, specifying a \$500 maximum spending limit. Mr. Manson also said he’d be on vacation next month and would miss the swearing in ceremonies.

Mr. Freedner noted that Mayor Villaraigosa had recently shown interest in placing a toll on the 110 Freeway carpool lane. He was concerned that eventually a similar toll would be in place on our Valley highways as well, despite the roads having been built as “freeways.” Second, he mentioned the proposed \$36 annual parcel tax for gang control, but expressed doubts as to its benefits; for example, no new jail facilities are proposed under that tax.

Mr. Luse complimented Ms. Ramsawack: “Great idea, great execution,” and suggested some publicity in Spanish.

Mr. Moscoso called for a round of applause for Ms. Ramsawack.

Ms. Dorick said the City now expects property owners to pay for repair of their own sidewalks whereas this historically has been a City function.

Ms. Ramsawack was glad to see Dr. Chang and Ms. Brice here tonight, and suggested all new members get online to LACity.org for info on NC's and keep in touch with Gracye Liu and go to training class. She thanked Yolanda for coming tonight. Also she wanted to petition DONE to expand our western boundary to include the area west of Whitsett Avenue but east of the 170 Freeway. People there are in her Neighborhood Watch and came to vote in our elections. Mr. Moscoso replied that those people must ask us for membership. Also, he noted several Board members are leaving and we valued their ideas and participation over the years. We should send them a letter or certificate. He wants to see people more specific on speaking and end the meetings within two hours if possible.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Mr. Moscoso noted: the \$500 for brochures and holders, a recap on the result of the National Night Out event. We should ask Ms. Liu if agenda items can still be shared among all Board members in the manner we have customarily used.

Also, he will share with us the password to the email account. Mr. Luse announced the Bobbie Fiedler had left him a phone message about an anti-gang program to be held Thursday night at 6 PM at Galpin Ford. Ms. Ramsawack also got such a message and would be attending. Also, Mr. Moscoso thanked Ms. Dorick for all of her hard work and assistance with the outreach efforts.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Pelych moved to adjourn, Ms. Dorick seconded, and by unanimous vote, the meeting ended at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ERIC FREEDNER
Secretary